

REMARKS

Claims 53, 64 and 66-68 are cancelled; claims 65 and 69 amended; and claims 33-37, 44-48, 50, 54-63, 65, 69 and 73 are pending in the application.

Claims 33-37, 44-48, 50, 54-63 and 73 are allowed.

Claim 65 is objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but is indicated to be otherwise allowable. Applicant has amended claim 65 to place the claim in independent form, and accordingly requests formal allowance of claim 65 in the Examiner's next action.

Claim 69 is amended to depend from claim 65 and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons for which claim 65 is allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 53, 64 and 66-69 over Hartig (U.S. Patent No. 5,403,458), and co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/695,814. Applicant has cancelled claims 53, 64 and 66-68 from the application, and has amended claim 69 as discussed above. Applicant has therefore rendered the rejections of claims 53, 64 and 66-68 moot, and has overcome the rejection of claim 69.

Claims 33-37, 44-48, 50, 54-63, 65, 69 and 73 are in condition for formal allowance, and applicant therefore requests that the Examiner's next action be a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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